

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5991
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 03552

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM, IO, US, AU
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KREISKY ON UN SPECIAL
SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD)

REF: STATE 084734

1. AMBASSADOR USED OCCASION OF HIS MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR
KREISKY ON APRIL 14 TO REVIEW WITH HIM SUBSTANCE OF
STATE'S 084734 WHICH SETS FORTH INFORMAL VIEWS OF USG
REGARDING UPCOMING SSOD. DISCUSSION WAS TIMELY SINCE
KREISKY IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK BEFORE SSOD ON JUNE 1 AND
IS NOW IN PROCESS, AS HE SAID, OF BRIEFING HIMSELF FOR
THE MEETING. KREISKY SAID HE APPRECIATED US VIEWS ON
SSOD AND MADE FOLLOWING GENERAL COMMENTS ON SUBSTANCE OF
REFTEL AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

2. US APPROACH TO SSOD IS POSITIVE, REALISTIC ONE AND
PRELIMINARY REACTION IS THAT AUSTRIA CAN SUPPORT US
STANCE IN PRINCIPLE. AUSTRIA WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH US
WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND AVOID, IN ANY CASE, TAKING POSITION
WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING OPPOSED TO US IN
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WHAT HAS PROSPECT OF BEING DIFFICULT SESSION.

3. KREISKY SAID HE WAS NOT A SPECIALIST ON DISARMAMENT
AND WOULD PREFER TO ABSENT HIMSELF FROM SSOD. HOWEVER,
ACCORDING TO HIS REPORTS, MANY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT,
INCLUDING THOSE FROM WESTERN EUROPE, ARE PLANNING TO
ATTEND. HIS ABSENCE MIGHT THEREFORE APPEAR STRANGE AND A

BIT PRESUMPTUOUS. HENCE HE WILL GO ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY, LARGELY BECAUSE, AS HE SAID, THE GREAT TIME AND EFFORT HE MUST SPEND TO PREPARE HIMSELF FOR SSOD.

4. ON SUBJECT OF NEUTRON BOMB, WHICH WILL PROBABLY COME UP AT SSOD, KREISKY SAID PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO POSTPONE PRODUCTION UNTIL LATER AND RELATE FUTURE DECISION TO ACTIONS OF SOVIETS WAS COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE AND CORRECT. TIMING IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE, PARTICULARLY FOR WESTERN EUROPEANS. DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT THEREFORE SHOULD BE TAKEN ONLY AFTER AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN POPULATIONS ARE CONVINCED BY WORDS AND DEEDS THAT US HAS SERIOUSLY TRIED BUT FAILED TO ARRIVE AT QUID PRO QUO AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS. WESTERN EUROPE IS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN A STRONG US AND BALANCE OF POWER REMAINS BASIS OF DETENTE BUT US SHOULD NOT ALLOW ITSELF TO BE MANEUVERED INTO POSITION OF SEEMINGLY UNDERMINING DETENTE. KREISKY ADDED THAT HE WAS CONVINCED THAT SOVIETS, IN SHADOW OF DETENTE, WERE TRYING TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH AND NEUTRON BOMB AND ITS POSSIBLE PRODUCTION SHOULD BE USED TO TEST SERIOUSNESS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS TO RESTRAIN ARMAMENTS RACE. BORG

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